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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/815,312	03/22/2001	Susan Bumgardner Cirulli	END9 2000 0176 US1	4659
44755	7590	07/28/2005		
SHELLEY M. BECKSTRAND 61 GLENMONT ROAD WOODLAWN, VA 24381			EXAMINER BACKER, FIRMIN	
			ART UNIT 3621	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 07/28/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/815,312

Applicant(s)

CIRULLI ET AL.

Examiner

Firmin Backer

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 May 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on May 14th, 2005 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claimss1-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Felkey et al (U.S. PG Pub 2002/0161667) in view of Nicastro et al (U.S. Patent No. 2004/0015367).

As per claims 1, 7-15 and 21-26, Felkey et al teach a method for providing procurement services to a plurality of customer companies, comprising establishing a user profile for each person authorized by a customer company to access the procurement services including a vendor catalog, a blanket order procurement contract for goods or services, a user profile table, costs centers, and accounting general ledger codes with company group specific accounting rules and

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defaults, associating each the company with a company group of related companies, the user profile specifying for each the user a user company and company group, providing for each procurement resource to be shared among the users a resource profile specifying for each resource those the companies to have access to the procurement resource; and responsive to the user profile and the resource profiles, controlling user access to the procurement resources (*see abstract, figs 1, 2, 4, 5a-6a, paragraphs 0012, 0015, 0037, 0046, 0047, 0064, 0051, 0058, 0088*). providing the procurement resources in a front-end catalog and requisition server (*see abstract, figs 1, 2, 4, 5a-6a, paragraphs 0012, 0015, 0037, 0046, 0047, 0064, 0051, 0058, 0088*).

receiving a user request from a first client browser to log in to the front-end server; responsive to the request, providing a user interface at the client browser only to procurement resources authorized by the user profile and the resource profiles (*see abstract, figs 1, 2, 4, 5a-6a, paragraphs 0012, 0015, 0037, 0046, 0047, 0064, 0051, 0058, 0088*).

receiving requests from a plurality of users authorized by different company groups to enter a requisition to a vendor with respect to the same catalog or contract resource; and generating separate purchase orders to the vendor with respect to requisitions originating with users from each the company group (*see abstract, figs 1, 2, 4, 5a-6a, paragraphs 0012, 0015, 0037, 0046, 0047, 0064, 0051, 0058, 0088*).

leveraging procurement buys from a plurality of company groups with respect to the same volume specific contract for goods or services (*see abstract, figs 1, 2, 4, 5a-6a, paragraphs 0012, 0015, 0037, 0046, 0047, 0064, 0051, 0058, 0088*).

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allowing the user to apply procurement charges to charge centers only within his company group (*see abstract, figs 1, 2, 4, 5a-6a, paragraphs 0012, 0015, 0037, 0046, 0047, 0064, 0051, 0058, 0088*).

Felkey et al fail to teach an inventive concept of providing common code defining workflow components common to all companies within the company group including accounting validation and approval processing.

However, Nicastro et al teach an inventive concept of providing common code defining workflow components common to all companies within the company group including accounting validation and approval processing (*see paragraph 0153*).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the inventive concept of Felkey et al to include Nicastro's inventive concept of providing common code defining workflow components common to all companies within the company group including accounting validation and approval processing because this would have provide a more efficient system.

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments filed November 10th, 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

a. Examiner take notice that Applicant canceled all the dependents claims and incorporate their subject matter in the independent claims 1 and 12. However, those limitations were previously rejected in the final office action mailed February 17th, 2005.

The incorporation of the dependent subject matter in the previously rejected dependent claims fail to place the application in condition for allowance since the prior art teach the limitation claim in the dependent claims. Applicant further argue that the prior art taken alone or in combination fail to teach the process of controlling access to procurement resources by a company or company groups. Examiner respectfully disagrees with a Applicant's characterization of the prior art. Nicastro et al teach I a system for defining and managing an asset which includes a data store for virtual area data provided on a host computer coupled to a network, and a data input and supplement toolset linking virtual area data to business objects. The system a data store for virtual area data, including item attributes, for objects incorporated into or consumed during the creation of the asset. The system also includes at least one data creation system for virtual area data in the data store, and at least one of: a teamwork system, a project management system, a cost management system, *or an item procurement system*, each including a data store interface allowing supplementation of virtual area data.

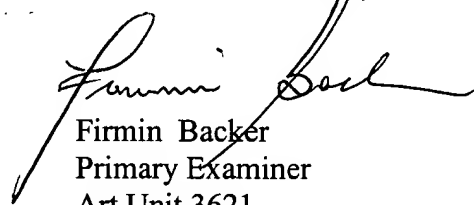
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Firmin Backer whose telephone number is (571) 272-6703. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thu 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on (571) 272-6712. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Firmin Backer
Primary Examiner
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July 22, 2005